premium subsidy @ 50% which is to be phased out on sun-set basis in a period of three to five years subject to review of financial results of the scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

Premium for cotton crop in Gujarat

2509. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the premium for cotton crop in Gujarat has been doubled in Kharif 2002 season, compared to Kharif 2001;

(b) whether there is a need to avoid such sharp increase in premium, which would adversely affect the interests of cotton farmers; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering any remedial measures to reduce the burden on the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The premium for cotton crop in Kharif 2001 was 5.05% which has been increased to 9.80% in Kharif 2002 season.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, this sharp increase or decrease in the premium rates is due to increase or decrease in the variability of the past yield data of the insured crop based on which actuarial rates are worked out.

(c) As the actuarial rates are worked out by the General Insurance Corporation of India based on the set methodology, therefore, they may come down in due course of time with the reduction in the variability of yield. However, the small and marginal farmers are provided premium subsidy to the extent of 50% on sun-set basis.

Foodgrains production in MP

†2510. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of foodgrains in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government to increase foodgrains production in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The production of foodgrains in Madhya Pradesh during 2000-01 was estimated at 89.30 lakh tonnes and it is expected to be 130.64 lakh tonnes during 2001-2002 as per fourth advance estimates on 27.06.2002.

(b) and (c) To improve the production of agricultural commodities in the country, the Government have launched various initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, market Information network and National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies. Apart from these, the Government have also switched over from the conventional schematic approach to Macro-Management Mode from November, 2000 for providing assistance to the States. The Macro-Management Scheme integrates 27 schemes into one for supplementing and complementing the efforts of State Governments through work plans. This gives flexibility to States to address their respective specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture.

Groundnut seeds for farmers in AP

2511. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether discontent is brewing among farmers in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, even as the sale of subsidised groundnut seed grains;

(b) if so, whether the farmers have expressed resentment over inadequate quantities being supplied;

(c) whether each farmer is being given only 30-kg. bags which is not sufficient to be sown even in one-and-a-half acre; and